GILA RIVER AT OLBERG ROAD
FCD GAGE ID# 0783

STATION DESCRIPTION

LOCATION – The gage is located at the Olberg Road bridge crossing of the Gila River in the Gila River Indian Community. Gaging equipment is located on the left downstream bank. Latitude N 33° 05' 15.3", Longitude W 111° 41' 13.3". Located in the NE1/4 NE1/4 NE1/4 S13 T4S R6E in the Sacaton 7.5-minute quadrangle.

ESTABLISHMENT – The District established its gaging on April 12, 1995. The USGS established gaging on May 19, 1995.

DRAINAGE AREA – Undetermined

GAGE – The gage is a non-submersible pressure transducer connected with a nitrogen gas bubbler. An orifice line connected to the PT detects water pressure in the channel. The orifice elevation is 0.44 feet gage height, from the USGS station description.

There is no staff gage at this location.

There is no crest-stage gage at this location.

ZERO GAGE HEIGHT - Zero is defined in gage height datum, based on the staff gage datum.

HISTORY – No previous gaging at this site. The USGS discontinued gaging at the site following Water Year 1998.

REFERENCE MARKS –

RM-OLBERG is an FCD brass cap. It has not been surveyed.

RM-1 is a USGS brass cap located to the left of the pier with the orifice lines. Elevation is 0.242 feet gage height, USGS levels of May 19, 1995.

RP-1 is a yellow bolt on the downstream side face of pier 10. Elevation 4.256 feet gage height, levels of May 19, 1995. Heavy graffiti has obscured the bolt and the yellow color.

RP-2 is a yellow bolt located on the apron of the bridge between piers 9 and 10. Elevation 2.120 feet gage height, levels of May 19, 1995.

RM-1 is a brass cap is located on the shelter of the concrete overhang. Elevation 17.677 feet gage height, levels of May 19, 1995.

RM-2 is an old BLM brass cap located on the concrete abutment between Olberg bridge and the canal bridge upstream. Elevation 24.008 feet gage height, levels of May 19, 1995. Elevation stamped on the cap is 1,309.4 feet M.S.L., but is not used.

CHANNEL AND CONTROL – The channel is straight for about 2,000 feet above and below the gage. The channel is 1,000 feet wide with a sand bottom with high dirt banks. A large sandbar is located between piers 3 and 5 from the left bank. The low and medium flow water control consists of the shifting sediment of the streambed. At high flow the channel is the control. The streambed is subject to shifting at all stages.

RATING – The USGS maintained the rating at this location prior to Water Year 1998. The rating has not been updated or revised since. The current rating is Rating #1. The rating should be reviewed and extended.

DISCHARGE MEASUREMENTS – Direct measurements can be obtained by wading at low flows or from the bridge at higher flows. The bridge is narrow, but lightly traveled. An indirect site has not been evaluated.

POINT OF ZERO FLOW – Undetermined

FLOODS – No significant flows have been recorded since installation. Several flows in the 2,500 cfs range have occurred.

REGULATION – Coolidge Dam upstream provides irrigation to the Indian community and to Coolidge and Florence.

DIVERSIONS – Coolidge Dam diverts water to canals for irrigation purposes.

ACCURACY – Poor

JUSTIFICATION – Monitor flows in the Gila River as a potential warning to Holly Acres near the confluence of the Salt and Gila Rivers.

UPDATE – April 26, 2011
D E Gardner